

Mr. Speaker, this administration has intentionally opened up our border to a flood of human trafficking, unprecedented drug smuggling, and a record amount of crime and gang activity. There is no apology for it. There is no recognition of it. There seems to be no sign of changing the posture and policies of this administration. There is no accountability. They are not committed to detaining and deporting.

Mr. Speaker, they are catching and releasing, there is lawlessness, chaos, and a border beyond recognition. This central tenet of catch and release has not only rewarded illegal immigration, but it has dispersed this crisis beyond our border to every State in the United States, making every State a border State.

Since March, 160,000 illegal immigrants have been released into the United States. This, in addition to almost a half a million got-aways.

Mr. Speaker, I recently learned that folks who were being detained, illegal immigrants, were being released into neighborhoods in communities in my district. They couldn't tell me how many. They couldn't tell me where they came from. They couldn't tell me who was going to follow up, when they would show up for court. They had nothing. They could confirm, however, that there were people being released, illegal immigrants, into our communities who were COVID positive, and some who had criminal records. Nobody notified. Not me, not our governor, not local officials—just releasing folks.

Meanwhile, this administration is mandating and insisting on vaccines and public health protocols, but letting folks just stream into our country. They say one of every five illegal immigrants crossing is COVID positive, and so there is this public safety threat of another surge inundating our hospitals while they force their policies on the American people in this regard. Shameful.

And there has been an exponential increase in criminal aliens apprehended at the border. These are folks who have committed a crime on our soil who have crossed back over—four times as much criminal activity, criminal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers are startling: 348 percent increase in criminal aliens convicted of DUIs coming back to the United States; 454 percent increase in criminal aliens convicted of drug possession; 477 percent increase in robbery, theft, burglary; over 200 percent increase in sex offenses, and over 1600 percent increase in criminal aliens who have come over to our country and committed murder.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT POWELL HOLDING, III

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert Powell Holding, III, of Wilmington, North Carolina. Thomas Jefferson once said, "God who gave us life gave us liberty."

North Carolina is fortunate to have an embodiment of this American spirit in Robert Holding, III, who is continuing his battle against pancreatic cancer by working on a new E.A. Morris/Robert P. Holding Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I first met Robert, or "Robbie", as so many of his closest friends and family in our home county of Johnston call him, when I was a teenager working on our family farm during the summers.

He drove up in his pickup, with his wrist resting on top of the steering—the window rolled down, of course. I don't know how I can recall that detail so vividly and not remember the exact year, but I think I was about 13 or 14.

He had stopped by the shop there at the farm to visit with my uncle for a bit. They talked weather and the crops and the latest news in the county for a good 30 minutes, maybe longer.

□ 1030

Now, that wasn't the first time I had seen a neighboring farmer come by in their pickup to talk, but it was the first time I had ever met a Holding. I had heard about the family for years—arguably the most influential family in Johnston County and eastern North Carolina—but I had never met one until that day. Years later we would be neighbors at McGee's Crossroads in Johnston County and in Wilmington as well.

Former U.S. Senator Lauch Faircloth said it best when he wrote about Robert Holding: Robert, you are one of the strongest people of faith I know. Lauch went on: I remember launching my campaign in your living room. You have been in the top leadership for Reagan in 1980, Senator Jesse Helms, myself, Senator Dole, and others.

My dear friend and former Congressman George Holding added: I watched my older brother work hard for years, building businesses in manufacturing, media, real estate, and finance. And I watched him tirelessly give back to his family and community.

I have personally seen firsthand how Robert Holding's hard work, mentoring, and insightful mind inspires others. He has helped make our State and Nation a much better place.

From the Nutcracker Company to vice president of promotional wholesale; from founder and CEO of Carolantic Communications and RP Industries; to founding Reedy Branch Farms, Robert has worked to be a contributor to his community.

From founder and CEO of Allied Communications, Delta Broadcasting

and WKFT-TV, to CFB Construction Company, Jefferson Marketing, RP Holding Realty, the Coalition for Freedom, and the Vance Young Team at Intracoastal Realty, Robert has provided love, leadership, and jobs to employees and owners.

From Americans for Reagan to Helms, Faircloth, Dole, Leo Daughtry, the Congressional Club, and so many others, Robert Holding is a visionary business leader who stands for what he believes.

You can see his kind heart in how he continues to give back to our community locally through his nonprofit work, and by his help to champion to E.A. Morris Cancer Center at Duke University. He is helping lead projects in Johnston County to strengthen Providence Presbyterian Church, expand LifeSpring Academy, and support Friendship Baptist Church, as well as his work with the Wilmington Boys and Girls Club, and leadership of Monday night Bible study.

He has also worked tirelessly to champion wildlife conservation across North Carolina with legendary conservationist Eddie Bridges. His vision for the Eddie C. Bridges, Robert P. Holding Black Creek Youth for Christ Wildlife Habitat Conservation Grounds will help future generations value our amazing natural sources.

Like his father and grandfather before him, Robert Holding, III, is an example of the American spirit that makes this country great; the spirit of faith, family, and community; the spirit to be the best we can be and to help others.

God bless you, Robert, and thank you. May God bless your wife, Pam; your children, Bob and Amy; your six grandchildren; your brothers, Frank and George; your sister, Jane; and all those whose lives you continue to touch.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to know Robert and to recognize him today.

WASHINGTON'S SPENDING ADDICTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, Washington, in fact, has a spending addiction. We doubled our spending last year to fight the pandemic, protect public health, and get the economy back open and protect jobs. On top of that, this spring, Democrats spent another \$1.9 trillion on extra spending.

Now my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are further fueling this addiction and just can't take their foot off the gas. We are headed downhill with no brakes. They continue to push forward with what amounts to another \$5.5 trillion tax-and-spending spree that is nothing more than a Trojan horse filled with tax hikes for American families and far-left, progressive priorities.